

Appl. No. 09/747,164  
Amdt. Dated: December 17, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of: November 17, 2003

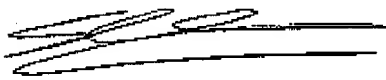
**REMARKS**

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

In the office action, the Examiner has separated the claims of the present application into three groups. Applicant hereby elects to pursue the claims of group I (claims 1-12, 14-17, 19, 21-24, 30, 32, 33, and 40-43) in the present application. The claims of the remaining groups have been hereby cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a divisional application.

Applicant requests early consideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 17, 2003

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(T00451-0065-US)

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TDOLREF #8215686 v. 1